

Minutes of the Economic Development Commission held at 8:15 A.M., on Thursday, March 25, 2010.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Thomas Dunham, William Gambardella, Walter Mann, Richard LoPresti Frank Maher, LuAnn Buono, Deborah Moore

Members Absent: Radha Prasad

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Meeting held on February 25, 2010, Mr. Freda moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Mann.

VOTE: All in favor.

COMMISSION MEMBER UPDATE TO M. FREDA

Mr. Maher suggested to Mr. Freda that we invite Mr. Paul Grimmer who is the President of the Economic Development Corporation for the Town of Orange to come and talk to the commission about forming a corporation.

Mr. Freda agreed and asked Mr. Maher to contact Mr. Grimmer and have him attend our April or May commission meeting.

M. FREDA OVERVIEW

Mr. Freda said that he has met with Scott Flora of Covidien. Mr. Freda gave Covidien an overview of North Haven and offered to work with them to provide them with options for their future expansion. Covidien was very receptive. Mr. Freda also said that he has contacted the State to work with Covidien on a bill that could adversely affect them.

Mr. Freda stated that he has been working with a developer to create a small industrial park on Giles Avenue. They are just in the beginning stages.

Mr. Freda met with Mr. Ulbrich of Ulbrich Steel. This site has approximately 11-12 acres of undeveloped land which in the long term has a lot of possibilities.

Mr. Freda is still trying to reconcile the traffic dispute between Doug Gray and Birmingham. He is waiting for the results of the State Traffic Commission.

The post office is interested in the former Stop & Shop site on Washington Avenue next to Rustic Oak. Mr. Freda said he would prefer them to move to the Parese site and is trying to steer them in that direction. He said it is a very slow process.

Mr. Freda said that he will be meeting with the new landlord of the former Quebecor site.

Mr. Freda introduced the Commission members to Mr. Lane Brunner. Mr. Brunner is very interested in the Rabina property and is working with Mr. Rabina on a mixed use concept. Both Rabina and Brunner really want to do something with this property but financing is the key.

Mr. Freda encouraged the Commission to call him if they are aware of any opportunities and he will follow-up on them.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST UPDATE – R. LOPRESTI

Mr. LoPresti recommended to the Commission that we hold the breakfast on Thursday, May 20th. He suggested possible locations for the breakfast. Commission members thought that Holiday Inn would be the best choice. Mr. Gambardella offered to contact Holiday Inn and see if they would be willing to sponsor the breakfast.

Mr. LoPresti said that United Illuminating is on board to make a presentation and offered to sponsor the refreshments. Other speakers include the Small Business Development Center, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Connecticut Community Investment Corporation, and a local bank.

Mr. Freda said that we need to have the State connect directly with the business community.

OTHER

Mr. LoPresti wanted to know if the Town is a member of NEDA or CEDAS. He recommended that the Commission become members because of the economic development resources they offer to towns. Mr. Freda asked Mr. LoPresti to find out the cost and benefits of membership.

Further discussion followed.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 22, 2010, at 8:15 a.m.

There being no further business before the Commission Mr. Freda moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 AM, seconded by Mr. LoPresti.